

Message Text

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64

ACTION CU-04

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R 300101Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0133

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4883

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, HK

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM - IV NOMINATION

1. POST NOMINATES HO HSIAO-TA, (PEN NAME HO TA), FREE-LANCE WRITER,
FOR A PARTIAL GRANT FOR INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM (IWP). FUNDS

NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL IN THE U.S.. WE
PROPOSE FUNDING FROM FALL-OUT OR DURING INTERIM QUARTER. IWP WILL
PROVIDE \$700 PER MONTH STIPEND FOR PERIOD SEPT. 1 - DEC. 31, 1976.

2. MOST OF HO'S WRITING IS FOR THE TWO MAJOR PRO-PRC NEWSPAPERS IN
HONG KONG. EXPERIENCED ANALYSTS SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH WRITING REFLECTS
LEFTIST THOUGHT, IT IS EXCELLENT, I.E., CONVEYS MESSAGE CLEARLY IN
GOOD CHINESE. MAJOR INTERESTS ARE POETRY, MOTION PICTURES, DRAMA,
THEATRE AND SOCIETY IN GENERAL. HO NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ANY FORMAL
COMMUNIST OR PRO-COMMUNIST AFFILIATION.

3. HO BORN IN 1915, STUDIED SOCIOLOGY AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, CAME TO
HONG KONG IN 1948, AND HAS NOT VISITED PRC SINCE THEN. HE HAS WIFE
AND TWO DAUGHTERS, ONE OF WHOM IS STUDYING IN ENGLAND. ENGLISH IS
FAIR.

4. PAUL ENGLE AND NIEH HUA-LING OF IWP MET HO IN HONG KONG LAST
SUMMER IN PRESENCE OF PRC REPRESENTATIVE.

5. HO IMPRESSES CAO AS OPEN, SINCERE, MODEST, DEEPLY INTERESTED
IN THE U.S. AT LUNCH HE SPOKE WARMLY OF AMERICANS HE HAD MET
AT TSINGHUA U. AND DURING WORLD WAR II. GRANT SEEMS HIGHLY
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EFFECTIVE MEANS OF IMPROVING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PRO-PRC MEDIA.

6. ADDITIONAL BIODATA WILL BE SENT SOON.

7. TO ENABLE HO TO PREPARE FOR TRIP, POST WILL APPRECIATE BEING
INFORMED SOON WHETHER GRANT CAN BE AWARDED.

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